

Innovative Education Program Implementation Application

The search and implementation of an Innovative Education Program is an individual journey for each school/district; each must go on their own journey down the path. There is no one way to implement an Innovative Education Program. The North Dakota Legislature and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) recognizes innovative programs may look different in individual districts. Many factors contribute to the decision regarding the direction of a school's individual Innovative Education Program journey.

The state's purpose for creating an Innovative Education Program is to allow individual schools to have individualized missions, goals, and objectives through a comprehensive plan that helps meet the needs of their students.

Through [North Dakota Century Code \(NDCC\) 15.1-06-08.2](#), the NDDPI is authorized to approve schools in implementing innovative education for the purposes of improving students' educational performance. Schools submitting an Innovative Education Program Implementation Application must have submitted the Innovative Education Program Planning Proposal and completed one year of planning. During the first year of planning, schools will have explained the rationale and the comprehensive visioning and justified the reasoning for requesting the Innovative Education Program.

After the initial year of planning, the school may submit a comprehensive Innovative Education Implementation Application, which may be approved for a period of up to five years. The NDDPI may approve the application, reject the application, or work with the submitting school to modify the application.

Key Elements for the Application:

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Describe the process of planning the Innovative Education Program, including details on the planning committee and stakeholders involved. Stakeholders should include, but are not limited to, district and building leaders, teachers and teacher leaders, students and parents, school board members, community and business leaders, and institutions of higher education where appropriate. See Appendix A for guiding questions related to this section and each of the following sections.
2. **Implementation Plan:** Submit a detailed, comprehensive Innovative Education Program plan and the plan for beginning the implementation of this plan. This plan should closely align to the school's vision for teaching and learning, including how the school's conditions will enable the school to attain that vision. The implementation plan should include goals and objectives, timelines for completion, and parties responsible for completion.

To assure school board members were involved, the school board must approve the plan by including the school board meeting minutes showing a review of the plan and approval to implement. Include documentation of commitment from stakeholders (i.e., letters of support, survey results, and meeting minutes).

Provide information on how this is expected to:

- A. Improve the delivery of education;
- B. Improve the administration of education;
- C. Provide increased educational opportunities for students; or
- D. Improve the academic success of students.

Identify local, state, and federal programs and how these programs will align to the implementation of the Innovative Education Program. This could include modifications to funding structures, local requirements, and agreements.

3. Professional Development: Establish and provide a professional development plan aligned to the Innovative Education Program.
4. Continuous Improvement: Provide documentation of the school's commitment to implementing a continuous improvement process in order to prevent repeat failures, capitalize on accomplishments, and ensure the schools are moving toward realizing the vision outlined in the Rationale section. The design of this system should allow use of data to guide implementation.
5. Evaluation Criteria: Establish evaluation of the program and provide a list of measures that will be used to monitor progress of both the programs implementation and how the program has:
 - A. Improved the delivery of education;
 - B. Improved the administration of education;
 - C. Provided increased educational opportunities for students; or
 - D. Improved the academic success of students.

Evaluation plan must include multiple evaluation measures. Applications should include quantitative and qualitative data measures, short-term and long-term goals, academic and school climate measures, and timelines.

Early stages of evaluation must include improvement on cultural measures such as attendance, disciplinary incidents, student engagement, student voice, student and parent survey data, and/or evidence of improved instruction practices.

Mid- and later stages of evaluation must include improved student performance including academic content skills and dispositions. Proficient and growth measures should be included.

6. Sustainability: Develop a sustainability plan to ensure the work continues into the future and beyond the tenure of a school leader and/or district superintendent.

Due Date: School districts are encouraged to submit an Innovative Education Program Implementation Application by March 1 each year to assure sufficient time for NDDPI to review and if approved, allow time for schools to prepare for the next school year's implementation. Schools may submit applications throughout the school year with the knowledge that implementation will begin after the application has been reviewed and approved.

Application Process: There is no official specific state form to utilize when applying. Schools may submit a detailed implementation application outlining the Key Elements above. Applications may be submitted to:

Stanley Schauer, Assistant Director
Office of School Approval & Opportunity
600 E. Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505
Phone: (701) 328-2271
Email: seschauer@nd.gov

Appendix A: Guiding Questions

These questions are designed to help schools and districts in the application process. Schools are not required to answer each question in this list, but could use them as a guide in developing their proposal and plan.

Rationale/Vision

- a. With what type of knowledge do we want our students to graduate? What do we want them to know?
- b. With what type of skills do we want our students to graduate? What do we want them to be able to do?
- c. What characteristics do we want our graduates to reflect? How do we want them to interact with the world?
- d. How has the district or school changed over the last 5 to 10 years? How do we expect it to change over the next 5-10 years?
- e. How will this innovative program help us meet the vision and goals set forth for our school?
- f. What research exists that provides an evidence-base for the particular innovation we are pursuing?
- g. What barriers to innovation exist in research? How will we plan to address those barriers?
- h. If our school has begun to implement innovative practices: what evidence to success can we present in a proposal?

Stakeholder Engagement

- a. Who are the stakeholder groups in our community? (In the school community and the broader community)
- b. How will we engage stakeholders in the planning process for innovation?
- c. How will we receive feedback from stakeholders about our innovation proposal?
- d. How will we address any barriers to the planning process based on stakeholders in your community?
- e. How will we engage members of the school community, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff, and the broader community in understanding our vision and goals for this innovative program?

Implementation Plan

- a. What are the highest priorities in implementing this plan?

Professional Development

- a. How will we engage teachers in the planning process to create innovative, relevant professional development opportunities?
- b. How will we personalize professional development opportunities for teachers?

Continuous Improvement

- a. Is continuous improvement a part of our vision for teaching and learning?
- b. What strategies need to be in place to ensure we develop a culture of continuous improvement?

Evaluation Criteria

- a. What types of data will we need to evaluate our work?
- b. How will we prioritize real-time evaluation data?
- c. How will we measure success in different areas of innovation? (e.g., professional development, student engagement, student academic success, teacher engagement, etc.)

Sustainability

- a. With whom will we need to engage over time to ensure sustainability of this plan?